



## Memorandum

Economic Development  
Rio Salado

DATE: September 13, 2001  
TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Chris Anaradian, Rio Salado Manager (480-858-2204)  
THROUGH: Jan Schaefer, Economic Development Director (480-350-8036)  
SUBJECT: **Fishing at Town Lake**

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With two years of water quality data behind us and the recent classification of Town Lake water as acceptable for fish consumption by the Arizona Department of Water Quality (ADEQ), fish stocking has a "green light" to proceed.

Staff has been working closely with the Arizona Department of Fish and Game (AZFG) this summer to develop a coordinated public education plan for a successful first fish stocking. We have been attempting to anticipate and plan for issues that may arise as a result of increased fishing activity at Town Lake. One issue that will affect public use of the lake is the creation of "fishing opportunity" areas around the lake edge.

The attached draft map indicates zones in green which have been identified by staff, AZGF, and the Town Lake Users Group (which includes current anglers), as being appropriate zones for lakeside fishing. Shaded areas under all of the lake bridges have been preserved as fishing opportunities. Red zones indicates areas where staff, AZGF and the Lake Users Group have agreed that fishing should be prohibited for safety considerations. They are:

**Tempe Beach Park: From the existing telescopes to the Rio Lago kiosk**

This zone is adjacent to the large public plaza in Tempe Beach Park. As a safety consideration, fishing will be directed away from this area to prevent possible injuries to pedestrians, bikers, and children who frequently congregate and pass by the lakefront at this location. The existing public plaza does not provide a clear separation between park visitors and bike path users and the anglers who would position themselves at this location.

**Boat Dock B-1 on the South Bank, west of the Railroad Bridge to the Downstream Dam**  
Dock B-1 does not provide opportunities for anglers to approach the water's edge. The area west of B-1 to the downstream dam is currently a multi-use path with no separation at the water's edge

with similar safety concerns for path users as in Tempe Beach Park. This area is also a future construction zone for the Visual and Performing Arts center, which will then become another major public gathering area. As a result of the current and near-term safety concerns in this zone, this area appears red on the map.

#### **City Docks and Boat Beach, on the North Bank**

Due to the single-point of access for the rowing program and the high volume of use at boat beach, fishing is currently prohibited in this vicinity. Recent conflicts of use between anglers and boaters have resulted in additional signage being added to reinforce this policy. The area immediately at the city docks also does not provide access to the water for anglers, and for safety and security reasons, these docks are not available for fishing.

#### **Town Lake Marina**

Access to the water at Town Lake Marina is currently controlled due to ongoing construction. After opening, the vicinity of the launch ramps, marina lagoon docks, and frontage at the future rowing house will not be available to fishing for safety and conflict-of-use reasons.

#### **Boat Docks B-2 and B-3**

These docks along the south bank are currently being designed into small public gathering spaces in conjunction with the expansion of the linear park system. The immediate vicinity of these gathering spaces will be off-limits to fishing for public safety reasons, and to allow for additional park vending opportunities.

#### **Upstream and Downstream Dams**

The zone inside the buoy line at each dam will be off-limits to boat fishing to prevent damage to the inflatable dams.

#### **Indian Bend Wash connection under the 202 Freeway (Seasonal Closure)**

This area has been identified as a fish-spawning zone. Arizona Fish and Game biologists have recommenced a management plan of fishing that calls for a seasonal closure to encourage sustainability of the Town Lake ecosystem.

Staff anticipates that as the linear park system develops along the lake edge, continued consideration will be given in the design of the Rio Salado linear Park system to fishing opportunities that provide a safe environment at the water's edge for all visitors and users of Town Lake.

**Staff is seeking council support to proceed with the demarcation and signing of fishing zones as outlined in our Draft Fishing Opportunities Map in conjunction with the first fish stocking of Town lake. These signs will comply with and conform to the previously developed Rio Salado signage package.**

**I will be in attendance along with representatives from AZFG at the Issue Review Session on September 20<sup>th</sup> to address any questions you may have regarding this plan.**

# Draft Fishing Opportunities Map



## Legend

- Shore Fishing Opportunity
- Shore Fishing Restriction
- Boat Tie-up (Caution area)
- Boat Landing (No Fishing)
- Parking
- Restrooms

Boat fishing is not permitted within 100 feet of dams.

Boat fishing is recommended near the west end of the lake and under bridges.

DRAFT  
8/20/01